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CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE Season of 1861 was inaugurated on the 1st of May, by a monster performance of Haydn's *Creation*. The metropolitan contingent of the Sacred Harmonic Society, numbering 1600 vocalists, has been from time to time subjected to periodical practice at Exeter Hall, and this body, reinforced by deputations from Bradford, Birmingham, Gloucester, and other places, brought up the executive power, in conjunction with the instrumentalists, to about 3000. The performance took place under the same circumstances of arrangement as upon the former occasions when leviathan concerts have been given, and the imposing character of the orchestra, when thus filled, tier over tier, with players and singers, is therefore well known. The *Creation* was not perhaps so eligible an oratorio as might have been chosen for the purposes of chorus exhibition, but there was this advantage in selecting it, that it was thoroughly familiar to the several provincial choirs concerned in the performance, and hence the need of a full rehearsal beforehand was in a great measure obviated. The delivery of the choruses was characterised by great precision and with admirable expression. The effect, however, of the display varied, as heretofore, with the position of the listener. In one place it was bright and clear; in another it was dull and obscure. It cannot be denied that very little is gained in a musical point of view by these gigantic demonstrations. The vast amplitude of the palace, and the consequent dissipation of the sound, robs the choral utterance of much of its sonority, certainly of much of its distinctness, and the wonder is that so large an outlay of means produces comparatively so small a result; but there is nevertheless a peculiar prestige, and an intrinsic grandeur in these festivals which constitute, as it were, a new epoch in the practical history of the art. The solos were sung by Madlle. Titiens, Madame Rudersdorff, Mr. S. Reeves, Mr. Santley, and Herr Formes, a group of the highest eminence and excellence. Madlle. Titiens upon this occasion made her first attempt in English oratorio music, and the breadth of style, delicacy of execution, and propriety of taste evinced by her, promises to ensure her a distinguished and honourable future in this new and difficult vocal field. Mr. Sims Reeves produced the usual sensation in all he performed. Madame Rudersdorff, Mr. Santley, and Herr Formes, were also effective in their several parts.

The Friday Opera Concerts have been well attended. The performers upon these occasions have included Madame Grisi, Madlle. Titiens, Madame Miolan Carvalho, Madame Alboni, Signor Giuglini, Signor Belletti, Mr. Ole Bull, Wieniawski, &c. There have also been exhibitions of flowers, and various concerts, at which other artists have sung, including Miss Emily Spiller, Miss Mackenzie, Miss E. Wilkinson, Messrs. Cooper, Thomas, and others, with the National Choral Society, the Swiss singers, the Christy's Minstrels, &c.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Subscriber is informed that there is no instrument called a *G Flute*, such as that which is referred to in Albrechtsberger's "Guide to Composition," known in London.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slip in the paper near it.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence, otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance. All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

ATTENBOROUGH.—A free concert was given in the National School-room, Chilwell, on Tuesday evening, May 21st., by the members of the Attenborough Church Choir, the first part being sacred music, and the second part consisting of solos, part-songs, and glees. The performers were the Misses Charlton, and Messrs. Browne, Gregory, and Kirkby. Mr. G. Browne, organist of the parish church, conducted.

BELFAST.—Herr Malmène, of Necton, Norfolk, has been appointed conductor to the Belfast Presbyterian Musical Association.

BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL.—This interesting event is fixed to take place on Tuesday, the 27th of August, and three following days, making the twenty-eighth triennial celebration of these famous Musical Meetings. The proceeds arising from the Festivals are applied to the assistance of the funds of the Birmingham General Hospital, one of the largest beneficent institutions of this nature out of London. So great has been the success of the Birmingham Festivals, that since their establishment in 1768, nearly eighty thousand pounds have been realized for the charity. The last Festival was held in 1858, when the Earl of Dartmouth was President. This year that office will be filled by the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot.

BLACKBURN.—The performance in the Town Hall, on the 16th ult., of the *Messiah*, by the united choirs of Blackburn and a few professional musicians, proved a decided success. The Hall was crowded, and the auditory were delighted with the performance. The Chorus numbered about two hundred voices, and among the instrumentalists were several from Manchester and other places. The principal vocalists were Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Crossland, Mr. Towers, and Mr. Hinchliffe. Mr. Robinson was the conductor. The choruses evinced careful training, and the band was efficient. The performance was for the benefit of the Blackburn Infirmary, and it is stated that the net profits amounted to £50.

CHATHAM.—The Chatham Choral Society, consisting of about fifty well trained voices, gave an attractive concert in the Ebenezer Jubilee Rooms, on the 9th of May, to a large audience. The programme comprised selections from Mozart's *Twelfth Mass*, and Gilbert's oratorio of *St. John*. The principal parts were sustained by Master Maas, Messrs. Horton, Hunt, Simmonds, and Robinson. The choruses were effectively given, and the whole was well accompanied by Miss Simmonds. Conductor, Mr. W. B. Gilbert, Mus. Bac. Oxon.

CHEDDAR, SOMERSET.—A concert of sacred music, consisting of anthems, choruses, &c., was given at the National Schoolroom, Cheddar, on Whit-Tuesday, May 21st. Mr. Alsop, a blind musician, presided at the pianoforte; and Mr. Jeffries was the conductor.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—A successful concert was given on the 7th ult., in the Assembly Rooms, by the Chester Church Choir and Sax Horn Band. The performers were Miss Gibson, Messrs. Joplin, Lee, and De Lacy.

DALSTON.—On the 10th ult., a concert was given at Dalston, under the direction of Mr. James, in aid of the Band Fund of the 7th Volunteer Rifle Corps. All the performers were amateurs, except Mr. James.

DARLINGTON.—On the 30th of April, Miss Maria Wilson, of Hull, gave a concert in the Mechanics' Hall, assisted by Miss Heatley and Miss Hutchinson, and Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner.

DEPTFORD.—A new Organ for St. David's Congregational Chapel has been lately completed and set up by Mr. Bates, of Ludgate Hill. It has three manuals, and thirty-five stops. Mr. Reynolds gave a performance on

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